

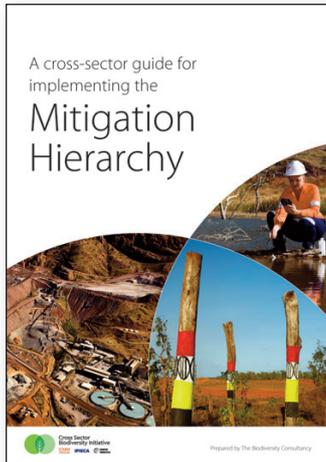
Cross Sector Biodiversity Initiative

ICMM
International Council
on Mining & Metals

IPIECA



Supporting extractive companies and their financiers in managing biodiversity



Mitigation Hierarchy Guide

The Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative (CSBI) is a partnership between IPIECA, the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) and the Equator Principles Association, for developing and sharing good practice related to biodiversity in the extractive industries. It is a unique collaborative platform for convening the collective knowledge and expertise of practitioners working across the three participating sectors: finance, oil and gas and mining. CSBI has developed products that guide users towards limiting, as far as possible, the negative impacts of development projects on biodiversity, and realizing positive impacts when possible.

About the Mitigation Hierarchy guide

A cross-sector guide for implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy¹ provides practical guidance, innovative approaches and examples to support operationalizing the mitigation hierarchy effectively.

CSBI's guide on the mitigation hierarchy was developed in consultation with, and with input from, technical specialists in impact assessment, extractive industry experts and financial institutions, with feedback and input from the non-profit sector.

The Mitigation Hierarchy guide:

- clearly defines the four steps of the mitigation hierarchy—*avoid, minimize, restore* and *offset*—and their application with regard to managing biodiversity throughout the life cycle of an extractive project;
- provides clear, systematic guidance for determining and demonstrating biodiversity loss or gain as a result of mitigation efforts, highlighting links to ecosystem services where available and appropriate;
- offers practical measures for predicting and verifying biodiversity conservation outcomes over time; and
- offers insight into documenting and comparing costs and savings resulting from mitigation action or inaction.

¹ CSBI (2015). *A cross-sector guide for implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy*. Prepared by the Biodiversity Consultancy on behalf of IPIECA, ICMM and the Equator Principles Association. Cambridge, UK.

... Mitigation Hierarchy guide

The guide reviews the many options to mitigate impacts, and guides users through a flexible approach to applying the mitigation steps. The approach is adaptable according to site-specific environmental and operational circumstances, including different regulatory regimes.

The publication is aimed at environmental professionals working in, or with, extractive industries and financial institutions, who are responsible for overseeing the application of the mitigation hierarchy to biodiversity conservation, while balancing conservation needs with development priorities.

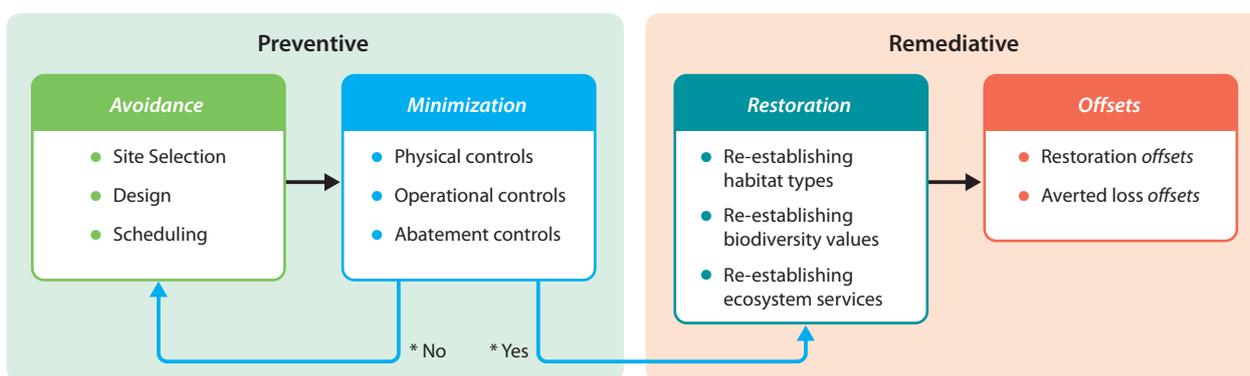
The guide is currently available in English, and may be translated into additional languages in the future subject to demand. It is a companion document to CSBI's *Timeline Tool* and the joint CSBI-MFI Biodiversity Working Group's *Good Practices for the Collection of Biodiversity Baseline Data*.

CSBI welcomes feedback on how the guide has been used in practice and on any improvements that can be made, as well as suggestions to enhance its uptake and dissemination. To provide comments or feedback, please email us at: feedback@csbi.org.uk.

The guide may be freely downloaded from the CSBI website at: www.csbi.org.uk/tools-and-guidance.

Implementation of the mitigation hierarchy

The figure below shows the iterative process of **avoiding** and **minimizing** predicted impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services until residual impacts can be managed through the remediative steps of **restoration** and **offsetting**.



* Can potential impacts be managed adequately through remediative measures?



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